

a data input unit for inputting data for the application according to the procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;

a sign input for inputting a sign of the applicant; and

by using said communication unit and orchestrating said center so as to determine whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not based on the identification data for the applicant which has been recorded in said resident data base and on each of the transmitted input data;

wherein the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site, and the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication.

2. (Four Times Amended) A passport transaction apparatus connected through a communication line to a center which executes an examination for issuance of passports as well as to a residents database which stores identification data of residents for providing services for issuing passports to applicants, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communicating with said center and with said residents database;

an image input unit for inputting an image of an applicant for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for the application according to procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;

a sign input unit for inputting a sign of the applicant; and

a control section for transmitting the data inputted by each of said input units and the identification data of the applicant fetched using said communication unit to said center by using said communication unit and orchestrating said center so as to determine whether the passport is to be issued or not based on the transmitted data;

wherein the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site, and the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication.

3. (Four Times Amended) A passport transaction apparatus connected to a center which provides the data for issuance of a certificate for an applicant and executes examination for issuance of passports for processing passport transactions through communication with the center via a communication line, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communicating with said center;

an image input unit for inputting an image of the applicant;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transaction according to the procedure displayed on said display unit;

71 a printer unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of the passport on a passport paper prepared previously;

an issuer unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with said printer unit; and

a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, data input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by said issuer unit;

wherein the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site, and said control unit sends the data inputted by each of said input units to said center using said communication unit and orchestrates said center so as to determine whether the passport is to be issued or not, and when it is determined that the passport is to be issued, makes the printer unit print the image of the applicant inputted by said image input unit and contents of the passport onto a passport paper prepared previously, and makes the issuer unit issue the passport obtained by printing;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication.

14. (Four Times Amended) A passport transaction apparatus for processing passport transactions with a storage medium which stores the data required for issuance of passports and the data for identifying applicants for passports, said apparatus comprising:

an image input unit for inputting an image of the applicant;
a reader unit for reading out the data from said storage medium;
a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;
a data input unit for inputting data for passport transactions according to the procedure for passport transaction displayed on said display unit;
a printer unit for printing an image inputted by said image input unit and the contents of the passport onto a passport paper previously prepared;
an issuer unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with said printing unit;
a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, reading by said reader unit, data input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by the issuing unit;

wherein the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site, and said control unit determines whether the applied passport is to be issued or not based on the data read out by said reading unit, and when it is determined that the passport is to be issued, prints the image of applicant inputted by said image input unit and the contents of the passport previously printed onto a passport paper using the printing unit and issues the passport obtained by printing using the issuing unit; and

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72 wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication.

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73 26. (Four Times Amended) A passport transaction method applicable to a system in which a system is connected via a communication line to a center for providing data for issuance of a certificate to an applicant and executing examination for issuance of a passport for processing passport transactions via communication with the center, said method comprising:

monitoring an applicant;
inputting data for checking the applicant,
accessing said center and determining whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not by using the data inputted;
inputting, when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, an image of the applicant; and
printing the image of the applicant and contents of description on the passport onto passport paper previously prepared, and issuing the passport obtained by printing;
wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication.

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27. (Five Times Amended) A passport transaction method applicable to a system for processing passport transactions with a storage medium storing therein data required for issuance of passports as well as data for identifying applications for passports comprising:

monitoring an applicant;

reading out data required for issuance of a passport from the storage medium and data for identifying an applicant;

determining whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not according to the data read out in the reading out data;

inputting, when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, an image of the applicant; and

printing the image of the applicant inputted and contents of description on the passport and issuing the passport printed;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication.

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28. (Six Times Amended) A passport transaction system comprising:

a center accessibly connected to a first database storing therein data for issuing certificates to applicants, registering data for issuance of passports in a second database, and executing examination for issuance of passports; and

at least one passport transaction apparatus connected via a communication line to said center for processing passport transactions by communicating with said center; wherein said passport transaction apparatus comprises

a communication unit for communicating with said center;

an image input unit for monitoring the applicant and for inputting an image of the applicant for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transaction according to the contents of procedure displayed on the display unit;

a printer unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of description on the passport onto a passport paper previously prepared;

an issuer unit for issuing the passport obtained by printing with said printer unit; and

a control unit for controlling the communications by said communication unit, image input by said image input unit, display by said display unit, data input by said data input unit and issuance of a passport by said issuer unit; while the control unit accesses the center using the communication unit, transmits the monitored image of the applicant to the center, asks the center to make determination as to whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not according to the data inputted by the data input unit, and when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, has an image of the applicant inputted by the image input unit and contents of description of the passport printed onto passport paper previously prepared and the passport obtained by printing issued

with the issuing unit; and the center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request from the passport transaction apparatus to the first and second databases respectively by the way of communication with the communication unit and returns a reply as to whether each applied for passport is to be issued or not according to a result of verification;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication.

33. (Four Times Amended) A passport transaction system comprising:

a first center having a first database with data required for issuance of certificates for applicants registered therein;

a second center for registering data for issuance of passports in a second database and also executing examination for issuance of passports; and

at least one passport transaction apparatus each connected via a communication line to the first and second centers for processing passport transactions for communicating with the first and second centers; wherein said passport transaction apparatus comprises:

a communication unit for communicating with the first and second centers;

an image input unit for monitoring the applicant and for inputting an image of an applicant for a passport;

a display unit for providing guidance with displays of contents of procedure for passport transactions;

a data input unit for inputting data for passport transactions according to the contents of procedure displayed on the displayed unit;

a printing unit for printing the image inputted by the image input unit and contents of description of the passport onto passport paper previously prepared;

an issuing unit for issuing a passport obtained by printing with the printing unit;

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a control unit for providing controls over communication by the communication unit, image input by the image input unit, displays by the display unit, data input by the data input unit, and issuance of passports by the issuing unit; while the control unit accesses the first and second centers respectively using the communication unit, verifies an applicant for a passport according to the data inputted with the data input unit, makes determination as to whether an applied for passport is to be issued or not, and when it is determined that the applied for passport is to be issued, has the image of the applicant inputted by the image input unit and contents of description on the passport printed with the printing unit onto passport paper previously prepared and also has the passport obtained by printing issued with the issuing unit;

the first center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request for verification of an applicant for passport from the passport transaction apparatus to the first database by way of communication with the communication unit and returns a reply according to a result of verification as to whether the applicant is the person he claims to be or not; and

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the second center verifies the data inputted by the data input unit according to a request from the passport transaction apparatus by way of communicating with the communication unit to the second database and returns a reply according to a result of verification as to whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not;

wherein the passport transaction apparatus is connected to a financial institution that executes an authentication of the applicant, so that the passport transaction apparatus identifies the applicant based on a result of the authentication.

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38. (Amended) A passport transaction apparatus that communicates with a first host computer which handles issuance of passports, a second host computer which handles data of residents, and a third host computer which handles payment from an account, comprising:

a communication unit that communicates with one of the first, second, and third host computers;

a display unit that displays a guidance for filing an application for a passport;

a data input unit that inputs data required in a procedure of the filing;

an image input unit that inputs an image required for the passport;

a signature input unit that inputs a signature as data; and

a control section that controls the communication unit, the image input unit, the display unit, the data input unit, and the signature input unit; wherein

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the data required in the procedure of the filing includes a PIN of an applicant for the passport, the control section communicates with the first host computer and the third host computer through the communication unit so as to identify the applicant based on a result of authentication by the PIN and so as to carry out a procedure for the payment from the account specified by the PIN.

39. (Amended) A passport transaction apparatus that communicates with a first host computer for handling issuance of passports and capable of communicating with a second host computer which handles data of residents so as to obtain residential data, and capable of communicating with a third host computer which handles payment from an account so as to identify the applicant based on a result of the authentication by the PIN, comprising:

- a communication unit that communicates with the first host computer;
- a display unit that displays a guidance for filing an application for a passport;
- a data input unit that inputs data required in a procedure of the filing;
- an image input unit that inputs an image required for the passport;
- a signature input unit that inputs a signature as data; and
- a control section that controls the communication unit, the image input unit, the display unit, the data input unit, and the signature input unit; wherein

the data required in the procedure of the filing includes a PIN of an applicant for the passport, the control section indirectly communicates with the second host computer and the third host computer through the first computer, the control section transmits the PIN to the first host computer

77 through the communication unit so as to identify the applicant according to the PIN and so as to carry out a procedure for the payment from the account specified by the PIN.

Please add new Claim 40 as follows:

78 40. (New) A passport transaction apparatus connected to a residents database storing therein identification data of the residents and also connected to a center which executes an examination for issuance of passports through a communication line, said apparatus comprising:

a communication unit for communication with the center;

an image input unit monitoring an applicant and for inputting an image of the applicant for a passport;

a display unit for displaying a guidance for the procedure for the passport transaction;

a data input unit for inputting data for the application according to the transaction procedure displayed on the display unit; and

a control section for transmitting the monitored image of the applicant and the data inputted by the data input unit to the center by using the communication unit;

wherein the image input unit is also used for monitoring the applicant at a remote site, and the control section makes the center determine whether the applied for passport is to be issued or not based on the identification data for the applicant which has been recorded in said resident data base and on each of the transmitted data.